# MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

5 MAY 1982

## Further on Ben Yahia Air Crash

Iraq firmly denied Iranian claims that Iraqi fighters shot down the plane carrying Algerian Foreign Minister Mohamed Seddik Ben Yahia, according to an Iraqi statement cited by Amman television. The statement accused Iran of shooting down Ben Yahia's plane in order to put an end to Algerian efforts to mediate the Iran-Iraq war. Iraqi President Saddam Husayn sent a cable of condolences to Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid, Baghdad radio reported. Baghdad radio and INA reported the crash without comment.

An Iranian Foreign Ministry statement carried by Tehran radio said that according to information received at Tabriz Airport, two Iraqi planes chased Ben Yahia's plane in Turkish airspace near the Iranian border. The Tabriz control tower instructed the plane to divert its route toward Ankara but at this point lost contact with the plane. A Lufthansa plane was likewise attacked by Iraqi planes in the same region but managed to change course in time, the statement asserted. Iranian fighters then arrived on the scene, forcing the Iraqi planes to flee. The Iranian statement accused Iraq of launching this "savage and mad attack" as a reprisal for its defeats on the southern fronts. Promising Algeria that Iran will avenge the blood of Ben Yahia and the other Algerians who died in the crash, the statement called on Turkey to condemn such acts and to provide security for civilian aircraft flying in its airspace to Iran.

According to APS, the Algerian president decided to set up a commission of inquiry into the causes and circumstances of the crash.

A Damascus television commentary accused the Iraqi president of assassinating Ben Yahia and said Husayn would kill anyone who tried to mediate a halt to the Iran-Iraq war.

## Iran-Iraq Conflict

Iranian forces to the west of the Karun River have almost completely collapsed and thousands of Iranians are surrendering to Iraqi forces, INA reported citing an Iraqi military commander. Earlier, an Iraqi military communique carried by INA reported that Iraqi planes and helicopters had raided Iranian positions to the west of the Karun River and had inflicted heavy casualties and equipment losses. The communique added that one Iranian plane was shot down over the Bostan sector. Iranian losses from 30 April-4 May amounted to 21,788 killed, while Iraqi losses were set at 621 during this period, the communique claimed.

Two Iraqi planes were shot down in the southern sector of Abadan, according to an armed forces communique carried by Tehran radio. Iranian planes bombed Iraqi troop concentrations in Fakkeh while fighting continued on the western fronts, the communique reported. Iraqi fortifications around Khorramshahr were heavily bombarded by Iranian planes, Tehran radio said. According to another radio report, 300 Iraqis from the 12th Brigade were killed during Iranian operations near the Hoseyniyeh station axis.

## Iran

The Kuwaiti paper AL-AWBA' reported that Ayatollah Kazem Shari'atmadari and former Foreign Minister Sadeq Qotbzadeh will be executed on 17 May, according to WAKH.

## Israel

Knesset Approval for Begin Proposal -- The Knesset approved by a vote of 58 to 54 Prime Minister Menahem Begin's announcement that no more settlements will be evacuated, Jerusalem radio reported.

Security Situation -- In the Gaza Strip IDF soldiers killed a Khan Yun's schoolgirl and wounded another when they fired shots to disperse a girl student demonstration, Jerusalem radio reported.

Arms for Argentina -- Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir told the weekly YOMAN HASHAVU'A that Israel will not sign any new arms sales agreements with Argentina, Jerusalem radio reported. However, Israel will honor all outstanding agreements with the Argentines, he said.

## Egypt

Resumption of Iraqi Flights -- Iraq is to resume flights to Cairo starting 10 May, MENA reported citing AL-AHRAM.

Stand on Annexation, Autonomy -- A Foreign Ministry source reaffirmed Egypt's view that the forcible annexation of land is "impermissible" and that the establishment of settlements in occupied territory is "illegal and contrary to international law," MENA reported.

## Lebanon

Following the discovery of the bodies of two members of the Nasirite Al-Murabitun organization who had been kidnapped on 2 May, clashes broke out in western Beirut between the Al-Murabitun and other factions, according to Voice of Lebanon radio reports.

## Syria

Information Minister Interview -- Information Minister Ahmad Iskandar Ahmad said in an interview with AL-MAWQIF AL-'ARABI reported by Damascus radio that the closure of the Syrian-Iraqi border is a temporary measure designed to protect Syrian citizens from booby-trapped cars sent by the Iraqi regime. He also revealed that contacts are currently underway to hold a Steadfastness and Confrontation Front summit conference.

Assassination of Soviet Expert -- In a report on recent clashes between security forces and the Muslim Brotherhood in northern Syria, Voice of Lebanon said a Soviet expert and a prominent Ba'th Party official had been assassinated.

FBIS DAILY REPORT

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ACTIVITIES OF CSSR DELEGATION REPORTED

LD042354 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1530 GMT 4 May 82

[Text] Dr Saleh Mohammad Ziray, Politburo member, secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and president of the National Fatherland Front [NFF] National Committee, met with the CSSR National Front Central Committee delegation this afternoon in his office at the revolutionary party headquarters.

At the meeting, which was attended by members of the NFF National Committee and the CSSR ambassador, talks were held in a friendly atmosphere about topics of interest, in particular the expansion of cooperation between the two sides.

The delegation of the CSSR National Front, comprising representatives of social organizations of that country and led by the deputy chairman of the CSSR National Front Central Committee and chairman of the solidarity committee, have come to Kabul for a friendly visit at the invitation of the DRA NFF.

According to another report, the DRA NFF National Committee gave a dinner in honor of the delegation at the Intercontinental Hotel.

Members of the executive board of the NFF National Committee; Najmoddin Khawiani, official in charge of the organization department of the PDPA Central Committee; the secretary responsible for the NFF National Committee; and the CSSR ambassador in Kabul took part in the dinner.

AFP: MUNITIONS DUMP BLOWN UP BY REBELS

BK041648 Hong Kong AFP in English 1604 GMT 4 May 82

[Text] Islamabad, 4 May (AFP) -- A munitions dump blew up in a Soviet camp south of Kabul during a Moslem resistance attack early Saturday, a Western diplomatic source said here today.

Casualties and material damage could not be estimated, the source said, but after the Camp Kala-i-Kag explosion, heard in Kabul toward 4 a.m. local, a series of other explosions were heard for more than two hours.

The Afghan press blamed the blast on a mistake by a worker at the dump, but diplomatic (?sources said) it was the result of a "lucky shot" from a mujahidin rocket.

ERSHAD RETURNS FROM SAUDI ARABIA 4 MAY

BK041722 Dacca Domestic Service in English 1705 GMT 4 May 82

[Excerpt] Chief Martial Law Administrator [CMLA] Lt Gen H.M. Ershad has said that his visit to Saudi Arabia has been very fruitful and (?useful). The CMLA was talking to newsmen at the Zia International Airport on his return home tonight.

General Ershad said he apprised King Khalid of the national objective and the measures being taken to realize them.

The Saudi king highly appreciated the efforts of Bangladesh of reducing dependence on foreign aid and building itself into a self-reliant nation. King Khalid himself assured liberal Saudi assistance and cooperation in building Bangladesh a self-reliant country.

ADMINISTRATION REVIEW COMMITTEE ORGANIZED

BK031645 Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 30 Apr 82 p 1

[Text] The chief martial law administrator [CMLA] has constituted a seven-member committee to examine the present system of civilian administration and recommend an appropriate and effective system of administration for the country, says a press information division handout issued on Thursday.

Headed by Rear Admiral M.A. Khan, DCMLA and adviser-in-charge of the Ministry of Communication, as its chairman, the committee comprises Mr A.Z.M. Obaidullah Khan, adviser-in-charge of the Ministry of Agriculture; Mr M.M. Zaman, secretary, Cabinet division; Brigadier Mahmudul Hasan, director of military operations, army headquarters; Dr Anisuzzaman, Prof. of public administration, Chittagong University; Mr. Maqsood Ali, director-general, national institute of public administration; and Dr. Shawkat Ali, member-director, Bangladesh agriculture development corporation, who will act as member-secretary of this committee.

The terms of reference of the committee will be --

(1) To review the structure and organization of the existing civilian administration with a view to identifying the inadequacies of the system for serving the people effectively; and

(2) To recommend an appropriate, sound and effective administrative system based on the spirit of development and the objective of taking the administration to the people.

If necessary, the committee will be able to co-opt other members and will submit its report by May 30, 1982.

FORMER DEPUTY PREMIER FOUND GUILTY OF CHARGES

BK010934 Dacca Domestic Service in Bengali 1700 GMT 30 Apr 82

[Text] The special martial law tribunal has found former Deputy Prime Minister Jamaluddin Ahmed guilty of charges in the third case brought against him under Clause 11 of Martial Law Regulation 1 and convicted and sentenced him to 7 years imprisonment with hard labor and to pay a fine of 1 million taka or in default to serve another 2 years of imprisonment with hard labor. The verdict was unanimous. The court heard the arguments of the prosecution and defense lawyers for about 5 hours.

Of the 10 persons involved in the case, Haji Salauddin and Safi Allam were found guilty and convicted. Haji Salauddin was sentenced to 4 years' imprisonment with hard labor and to pay a fine of 800,000 taka or in default to serve another 2 years of imprisonment with hard labor. Safi Allam was sentenced to 2 years' imprisonment with hard labor. The remaining eight persons were found not guilty and were acquitted.

BORDER TALKS TO BE HELD WITH PRC 17 MAY

BK041444 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1330 GMT 4 May 82

[Text] India and China will hold discussions on bilateral matters, including the border issue, from the 17th of this month. The talks will continue till the 21st. This was disclosed by an official spokesman in New Delhi today. Talking to newsmen he said the Chinese delegation, led by their vice foreign minister, Fu Hao, will be arriving in New Delhi on the 15th. The Indian side to the talks will be led by Secretary in the External Affairs Ministry Eric Gonsalves.

Other subjects which are likely to come up during the discussions are trade and commerce, cultural relations and cooperation in science and technology. India's ambassador to China, K.S. Bajpai, is expected in New Delhi on the 9th of this month for consultation.

RAO INTERVIEWED ON REGIONAL, DOMESTIC ISSUES

PM041015 Algiers EL MOUDJAHID in French 23-24 Apr 82 p 12

[APS interview with External Affairs Minister Narasimha Rao in New Delhi: "A Milestone in Bilateral Relations -- date not given]

[Text] New Delhi -- In a statement given to the APS special envoy, Indian External Affairs Minister Narasimha Rao discussed Algerian-Indian relations, the development of South-South cooperation, the situation in the South Asian region, the situation in the Nonaligned Movement and the economic situation in India.

Questioned on what "impact President Chadli Bendjedid's visit to India will have on the future of political and economic relations between Algeria and India," the minister said in particular that:

"The Algerian president's visit promises to be a milestone in Algerian-Indian relations. It will give us the opportunity to further strengthen our relations and our similar views on many problems. Our efforts will also be aimed at exploring new paths for economic cooperation between the two countries.

"We are convinced that closer economic and technical cooperation between our developing countries would make a broad contribution to the solidarity and collective self-sufficiency of those countries. In that context it is useful to recall that the Indian initiative which made it possible to hold the recent New Delhi negotiations was supported by our Algerian friends. As regards bilateral relations, we are very optimistic about the positive result of our joint efforts with a view to strengthening and diversifying economic cooperation between our two countries.

Asked to describe the situation in the region and to explain the role which India is playing in safeguarding peace and security, the minister said:

South Asia is experiencing great difficulties, but there is reason for hope. The difficulties stem from the fact that the cold war has moved from Europe to our continent and also from the fact that the superpowers have increased their presence in the Indian Ocean. Hope rests in the fact that the countries in the region are actively seeking ways and means of strengthening their mutual cooperation. As for us, our relations with most of the countries in the region are excellent and characterized by cordiality, mutual respect and cooperation for the benefit of the countries concerned. We want to live in peace and friendship with all our neighbors.

"At the subregional level we are taking an active part in discussions on the promotion of cooperation among the countries in our region. This proposal has generally been well received, and it is now only a question of time before that type of cooperation is established by all the countries concerned: India, Pakistan, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and the Maldives. India is very optimistic on this subject.

On the Nonaligned Movement's situation and the way in which India views the forthcoming conference in Baghdad, the Indian minister stated:

"The Nonaligned Movement's importance is still increasing. It now comprises around 100 countries and, contrary to some allegations, has lost none of its vitality or raison d'etre since it is a voluntary union of various states. Although differences exist on some problems, they do not necessarily mean that the movement is weaker. Quite the reverse; there is a broad consensus on many crucially important questions. It is in that spirit that we view the movement's forthcoming conference."

Questioned on the economic difficulties which India is now experiencing and which are reflected in major social distortions, Mr Rao stated:

"We were one of the first countries in the world to undertake our country's economic development through a process of systematic planning. It is an experiment now regarded as a precondition for a country's economic liberation from the depredations of imperialism and neocolonialism, giving real meaning to political independence.

"We have succeeded in many spheres, although problems still remain. It would be surprising if that were not the case. Some problems still exist in all countries whatever their stage of development. Our success lies in the fact that India's grain production, for instance, is 139 million tons per year, in other words 4.5 times what it was when we achieved liberation in 1947.

"During 35 years of independence we have emerged as one of the 10 most industrialized countries in the world, with the third-largest reserve of skilled labor after the United States and the USSR. Life expectancy has doubled. The man in the street now knows by experience that he can improve his living conditions from year to year. No such hope existed during the colonial period.

"We are working actively to solve the problems which still exist. In that context the prime minister," the external affairs minister explained, "announced a new 20-point program 2 months ago aimed at emancipating all sections of Indian society, especially the most underprivileged, in the economic and social spheres. The process of planned development combined with this program is aimed at securing for the Indian people industrial development, social justice and political stability."

PURCHASE OF SOVIET MIG-27'S BEING CONSIDERED

BK041534 Hong Kong AFP in English 0832 GMT 4 May 82

[Text] New Delhi, 4 May (AFP) -- A leading Indian news magazine today confirmed reports that New Delhi was going for the Soviet MiG-27 advanced tactical strike aircraft for the country's air force. "INDIA TODAY" fortnightly said in its latest issue that a batch of Indian Air Force pilots, who had been flying the earlier version of MiG aircraft, were currently in the Soviet Union for a three-month training programme on the new aircraft.

The magazine quoted informed sources as saying the training was mainly on the MiG-27 Flogger-D aircraft.

"India may eventually settle for the MiG-27 which has the advantage of being able to operate from unprepared or under-prepared runways," the magazine added.

The Indian Defence Ministry refused to comment on the report.

The strike power of the 113,000-strong Indian Air Force is currently mainly based on various versions of MiG aircraft, in addition to the latest Jaguar deep penetration aircraft. The air force has over 620 combat aircraft. India also recently announced a multi-million dollar deal with France for the purchase of advanced Mirage-2000 aircraft.

HAQ STRESSES NEED FOR DEFENSIVE CAPABILITY

BK041126 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 4 May 82

[Text] President Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq has said it has always been the policy of Pakistan to extend its hand of friendship to its neighbors but it will not accept the supremacy or hegemony of any country. He was addressing the officers and troops at the installation ceremony of Lt Gen K.M. Arief as colonel commandant of the 11th Cavalry in Kharian Garrison this morning.

He said Pakistan believed that every country has the undeniable right to strengthen and consolidate its defense requirements. In fact, he said, this is the undisputed and sacred right of every sovereign country. The government is fully aware of this responsibility and, though its resources are limited, it is making every effort to meet the country's defense requirements in view of the changing conditions around Pakistan. He said it is a matter of satisfaction that hopeful developments have taken place in this behalf.

He said when we talk of increasing our defensive capability we obviously mean defending the territorial integrity of the country. Pakistan is a peace-loving country and wanted to live in an atmosphere of peace and tranquillity. He said Pakistan respects the independence and sovereignty of others and rightly expects that others would also abide by this principle by playing their role in maintaining peace in this region. He said Pakistan wished to have friendly relations on the basis of mutual respect and equality with all countries of the world and particularly with its neighbors.

The president said it has been our endeavor to spend all our resources for strengthening the national economy so that agriculture and industries promoted to enable us to improve the condition of our masses. For this purpose peace is inevitable and maintenance of peaceful condition must be backed by defensive capability. He said the government is making endeavors to achieve both the principles. But, he said, side by side with making efforts for peace we should always be ready for defense which is the biggest guarantee for peace.

Emphasizing the need for striving for perfection he said it is essential that with the acquisition of latest weapons we must also undergo intensive training and keep ourselves abreast of the scientific and technological progress in this field. He impressed upon the armed forces the need for continuous improvement in their professional efficiency as there is always room for improvement.

He said the nation had great confidence in the armed forces and they must be prepared to fulfill these expectations. For this purpose they must be prepared to make sacrifices in future as was done by them in the past.

Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq called upon the armed forces to transform their lives in accordance with the Islamic values and always abide by them.

The president reiterated that Islam is the religion of peace and according to this cardinal principle, Pakistan has made its solidarity and integrity as well as that of its neighbors as its basic policy.

INDIA ASKED TO PREVENT DISSEMINATION OF BOOK

BK030236 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 2 May 82

[Text] Pakistan has brought to the notice of the authorities concerned the publication of the book titled "Mountbatten and the Partition of India" which contains (?affrontive) material against the qaid-e-azam [Mohammad Ali Jinnah; founder of Pakistan]. The book has been published in India. Informed sources said in Islamabad today that Pakistan has pointed out that the material in the book has hurt the feelings of the people of Pakistan. The sources said the concerned authorities have been asked to take steps to prevent the further dissemination of the book.

FURTHER DETAILS ON CRASH OF ALGERIAN PLANE

Foreign Ministry Statement

LD041024 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0925 GMT 4 May 82

[Text] The Foreign Ministry made a second statement available to the Central News Unit:

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Following the first statement released by the Foreign Ministry of the Islamic Republic of Iran concerning the tragic incident of the crash of a private plane carrying the Algerian foreign minister and his entourage, this is to announce that according to the tape recording made at Tabriz Airport's control tower with the Algerian pilot, and in accordance with a report by the investigative team from the Tabriz radar units, two Iraqi planes chased the Algerian plane in Turkish airspace near the Iranian border. The Tabriz control tower then instructed the plane to divert its route toward Ankara in order to avoid any attack by Iraqi fighters. The pilot then decided to change his flight. It was at this point that the connection between the control tower and the Algerian foreign minister's plane was cut off.

Immediately afterwards Iranian jet fighters chased the Iraqi planes. The tape and other evidence pointing to the plot hatched by the Baghdad criminal regime will be made available to the Algerian Government and nation as well as to world public opinion.

Furthermore, it was learned this morning that a Lufthansa passenger liner, flight No 600, flying at 37,000 feet, was attacked by Iraqi planes near the Turkish-Iranian border. Fortunately, having been alerted by the Tabriz control tower, the pilot of the passenger plane altered his route in time toward Ankara. Following the sortie by Iranian jet fighters, the Iraqi attackers were forced to flee.

The big crime of shooting down the plane carrying the Algerian foreign minister and his entourage, who were coming to Iran at the official invitation of our country in order to expand bilateral relations, once again exposes the criminal and ostensibly peace-loving face of Saddam to the world; it proves to the world that Saddam's [so-called] peace offensive is nothing but deception.

This savage and mad attack, launched in reprisal for the recent disgraceful defeats suffered by the Iraqi forces on the southern borders, once again showed the violent nature of the Ba'thist Baghdad regime against the supporters of Iran's just stance.

We assure the Algerian Government and nation that we shall avenge this shedding of the innocent blood of our Muslim Algerian brethren by the infidel Saddam.

Moreover, considering this irreparable crime committed by the Saddam regime and the attack launched by the Iraqi fighters on the Lufthansa passenger aircraft in Turkish airspace, we call on our Muslim and neighboring country of Turkey to condemn such savage acts which are taking place contrary to all human and international principles, and exert all its efforts to provide security for civilian and passenger aircraft flying to Iran.

[Signed] The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran

'Azizi on Investigation

LD041918 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 4 May 82

[Text] Deputy Foreign Minister Ahmad 'Azizi, who had gone to Urumiyeh to study how Iraqi fighter planes attacked the civilian plane carrying the Algerian foreign minister and his entourage, returned to Tehran this afternoon.

Our colleague from the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Urumiyeh has sent us a report to which we draw your attention:

[Begin recording] [Correspondent] Mr 'Azizi, deputy foreign minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, who went to Urumiyeh this morning at the head of a team of Iranian experts, accompanied by the ambassadors from the Muslim and friendly countries of Algeria, Syria and Libya, in order to investigate the downing by encroaching Iraqi aircraft of the plane carrying the Algerian foreign minister and an accompanying delegation, returned to Tehran this afternoon with those accompanying him.

Before leaving Urumiyeh the deputy foreign minister related his observations of the place where the accident took place and told the correspondent of the Central News Unit in Urumiyeh [passage indistinct].

[Correspondent] How many were in the plane?

['Azizi] There were definitely 14 people in the plane. The names announced by Algerian Government officials included the foreign minister of that country, a few directors general of the Foreign Ministry of that country and a number of officials from the Oil and Commerce Ministries as well as some from the news agencies of that country.

[Correspondent] Have Algerian sources been involved in the investigations, and will these investigations continue and (?which groups will be involved in this investigation)?

['Azizi] Experts are busy investigating the various aspects. The investigation is still in the preliminary stage. The issue will be investigated by teams of experts and probably some delegations will be sent to Iran, so that they can also see the dimensions of this crime and investigate the way this accident took place and present it to the Algerian people. The Algerian ambassador and the ambassadors of the friendly countries of Libya and Syria came and were informed of the investigations. [end recording]

## Khamene'i Sends Condolences

LD041942 Tehran IRNA in English 1631 GMT 4 May 82

[Text] Tehran, 4 May (IRNA) -- President Khamene'i today cabled a message of condolences to President Chadli Bendjedid of Algeria, on the occasion of martyrdom of the Algerian foreign minister, Mohamed Ben Yahia and a number of other high ranking Algerian officials, in a plane crash near the Iran-Turkey border on Monday night. The Algerian mission was on the way to Tehran on Monday night when the plane carrying them was attacked by two Iraqi planes.

In his message the president of the Islamic Republic of Iran said that he received with deep sorrow the news of the crash of the plane carrying Mohammad Ben Yahia and his companions who were coming to Iran as a humanitarian effort for the sake of peace. The air pirates who deceitfully were talking about peace, in revenge for their defeat in the war, directed their attacks on the defenseless passengers of a plane which belonged to a progressive Arab Muslim country carrying the message of peace and reconciliation, he added.

The president further said that with this flagrant violation against the international security, the criminal nature of the Iraqi regime and the baselessness of Iraqi claims (?to defend) the Arab cause and peace, became clear. This was a bitter and sorrowful incident which had taken place with the intention of creating a state of fear and insecurity in the world, and it was the duty of all freedom-lovers in the world to condemn those behind it, he stressed.

At the end of his message, President Khamene'i on his own behalf and on behalf of the government and the Muslim nation of Iran, expressed his condolences on this great disaster to President Bendjedid, the revolutionary Government and nation of Algeria and especially the families of the wronged victims of this incident.

Meanwhile, the governor of the Central Bank of Iran, Mohsen Nurbakhsh, sent a message of condolences to his Algerian counterpart on the same occasion.

Musavi Sends Condolences

LD041214 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 4 May 82

[Text] According to a Central News Unit report, following the crash of the plane carrying Algerian Foreign Minister Mohamed Seddik Ben Yahia, which resulted in the martyrdom of the foreign minister and his entourage, the following message of condolence was sent by Prime Minister Musavi:

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. It is with deep regret and sorrow that the martyrdom of our eminent brother Mohamed Seddik Ben Yahia, the Algerian foreign minister, and of his entourage is announced following the crash of his plane. The dear brother's efforts and struggles for the liberation of the Algerian people from French colonial domination have proved very valuable. The course of his active life was marked by his attempts to strengthen fraternal relations between the Algerian and Iranian peoples. He lost his life while heading for our country as a result of a dastardly plot hatched by the criminals ruling Iraq.

No doubt, his pure blood and that of his entourage will create a firm bond between the two Muslim and fraternal Algerian and Iranian nations which will result in the disgrace of the lackeys of the big powers throughout the world. Our government and nation will certainly avenge most severely the pure blood of this noble son of Algeria. On behalf of the Islamic Republic's Government and of the Iranian nation, I express my profound condolences and sympathies to the Algerian Government and people and declare a 3-day public mourning period as of tomorrow, Wednesday, 5 May 1982, until Friday, 7 May 1982, to commemorate his and his entourage's martyrdom.

I pray to God Almighty for him and for all Islamic martyrs.

[Signed] Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran Mir-Hoseyn Musavi

MUSAVI SUBMITS 'IMPORTANT' REPORT TO KHOMEYNI

GF040945 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 4 May 82

[Text] During his meeting today with Imam Khomeyni, the leader of the revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic, Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi submitted to his eminence an important report on current issues in the country.

KHOMEYNI ADDRESSES WORKERS ON LABOR DAY

LD011846 [Editorial Report] Tehran Domestic Service in Persian at 1030 GMT on 1 May carried a report on an audience granted by Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni to a "group of workers" on the occasion of Labor Day, 1 May, and a 43-minute recorded speech by Ayatollah Khomeyni at the meeting, poorly monitored due to accoustics.

Khomeyni begins by congratulating all workers on Labor Day and says that the Prophet Mohammad had great respect for workers.

In his speech he asks how long will workers be dependent on America or the Soviet Union and says that we must instill ourselves with the idea that we are self-sufficient and independent.

He says that workers should compare the communist countries' attitude to workers with the attitude of Islam to workers. Khomeyni says that the communist countries treat workers like animals and feed them like animals, and that the capitalist countries deceive the workers.

Khomeyni concludes by citing the virtues of the martyred Ayatollah Motahhari.

ARMED FORCES JOINT STAFF COMMUNIQUE 882

LD041926 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 4 May 82

[Communique 882 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. While offering congratulations on the occasion of the birthday of the ninth Shi'ite imam, Mohammad Taqi, may peace be upon him, we bring to your attention part of the results of operations carried out by the combatants of Islam:

On the vast bloodstained plain of Khuzestan, the brave combatants of the monotheistic front continue firing at the Saddamist invaders' positions and crushing their last resistance. All units taking part in the victorious Jerusalem operations, while guarding and consolidating their own positions, are carrying out mopping-up operations in the newly recaptured sectors. Our forces are continuing the task of collecting and evacuating arms and equipment captured as booty; and while maintaining their domination and superiority, our forces are vigilantly defending their own positions.

Today, too, fighter planes of the Air Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran guarded the airspace of the operational sectors and, while providing air cover for our combative ground forces, helped their victorious brothers and downed two more aggressive Iraqi planes in the southern sector of Abadan at 1503 and 1539.

Our fighter planes also bombed an enemy concentration point in (Fakkeh) at 1800.

Exchange of fire continued on various western fronts of the country. The following blows were delivered at the enemy during the past 24 hours:

On the Gilan-e Gharb and Sar-e Pol-e Zahab axes, zealous tribal warriors, while guarding the sectors under their own protection, opened fire on enemy positions and destroyed seven heavy vehicles, one command jeep and one fuel tanker of the Iraqi troops.

Our combative units on one of the western fronts succeeded in destroying one tank, three vehicles, several piles of equipment and one command post of the enemy. At least 50 Saddamists were either killed or wounded.

Exchange of artillery and mortar fire continued in the Meymak, Gilan-e Gharb and Ilam sectors. Several enemy tanks and vehicles, one artillery piece, one machinegun and several trenches and observation posts were set on fire and destroyed in these sectors. The invaders were prevented from moving any supplies or troops. Several Iraqis were killed.

In the Biarreh and (Kani Skan) sectors, artillery fire of the Ground Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran silenced enemy fire and destroyed one enemy tank, one drilling machine, one vehicle and several trenches. One enemy mortar was also damaged.

In the Toveyleh sector, one vehicle and some ammunition of the Saddamists were destroyed.

IRAQI COMMANDER, 300 SOLDIERS KILLED

LD041110 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 4 May 82

[Excerpt] According to Central News Unit correspondents dispatched to the southern fronts, captured Iraqi soldiers and officers report that Col Muhammad Alwan, commander of the Qadisiyah Battalion of the 12th Armored Brigade of the 3rd Division of the Ba'thist regime of Iraq, was killed 2 days ago on the Ahvaz-Khuninshahr road, following the audacious operations of the combative brothers.

According to the same report, during the operations of the past few days on the Noseyniyeh station axis, the 300 personnel of a mechanized battalion from the 12th Brigade were all killed.

IRAQI POSITIONS AROUND KHORRAMSHAHR BOMBED

LD042016 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 4 May 82

[Text] Dear listeners: Please pay attention to a report which we have just received: Eight of the high-flying eagles of the Air Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran at 1800 today, during some coordinated and daring operations, brought the enemy positions, fortifications and armored equipment around Khorramshahr under heavy bombardment.

According to the IRNA correspondent's report, transmitted from the region only a few moments after this operation, the smoke resulting from repeated explosions of enemy equipment can be seen from a long way off.

According to the same report, the self-sacrificing personnel of the Air Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran, who during their triumphant Jerusalem operations repeatedly smashed the positions of the impotent enemy, have safely returned to their bases.

AFP: FORCES BREAK THROUGH IRAQI LINES

NC051139 Paris AFP in English 1124 GMT 5 May 82

[By Bernard Estrade]

[Text] Ahvaz, southern Iran, 5 May (AFP) -- Iranian forces have broken Iraqi lines along 25 kms (16 miles) of the southern front in oil rich Khuzestan Province and set up advance positions along vacated Iraqi barricades along the Ahvaz-Khuninshahr road.

Yesterday, the fifth day of the "holy city" offensive on the southern front, Iranian troops crossed the Karun River to the road -- the only north-south route through marshy ground -- virtually splitting the Iraqi front.

A senior Iranian officer told foreign correspondents touring the battle front that the Iraqis counter-attacked yesterday but that "all their efforts were in vain".

The five-metre (yard) barricades captured from the Iraqis are about halfway between Ahvaz and Khuninshahr (formerly Khorramshahr).

A general staff major said at a briefing that Iranian forces now controlled the road "from kilometre 60 to kilometre 110."

He said the first stage of operation holy city had freed some 800 square kms (some 300 sq. miles) between the Karun -- formerly the front line -- and the Ahvaz-Khuninshahr road.

The major said that yesterday's advance cut right through Iraqi forces, some 60,000 men in seven divisions.

This correspondent saw two Iranian bridges across the Karun, but an officer said that "five or six" had been slung across the river, bringing supplies and reinforcements to the new Iranian front line.

In the regained stretch, for some 10 kms (six miles) west of the river, Iranian forces have set up ammunition and fuel dumps. Armoured and mechanized infantry units are sheltered in the rare clumps of vegetation, while the tips of heavy artillery pieces showed over earth ramparts.

Fighting was intense late yesterday morning, but hundreds of Iranian soldiers were visible on the abandoned Iraqi ramparts, seemingly unconcerned by heavy Iraqi fire.

One Iranian officer told the correspondents that only one km away (less than a mile) five or six Soviet-built T-62 tanks captured from the Iraqis awaited orders to advance.

The feeling at the front was that this offensive will be a long one. "This time we are going to finish the Iraqi Army", one colonel pledged.

IRNA INTERVIEWS 'HIGH-RANKING' IRAQI POW

LD042346 Tehran IRNA in English 1626 GMT 4 May 82

[Text] Ahvaz, 2 May (IRNA) -- One of the high ranking Iraqi commanders recently captured by the Islamic combatants on the Tarrah front today when interviewed by IRNA said that Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Kuwait and other reactionary countries of the region produced aid for damping the economic crisis overwhelming in Iraq [as received]. He also said that the Iraqi Army was expecting the upcoming offensive of the Islamic forces, being well equipped in this respect. However, in the first hours of the offensive it sustained heavy blows in which many were killed or wounded. Hinting at the abortive attempts of the Iraqi regime in this war, he said that the commander in chief of the Iraqi Army and the head of the Iraqi information office inspected this unit trying to give morale to soldiers while they themselves lacked it.

The Iraqi commander asked not to be identified since his relatives might be in danger in Iraq also said that though there were no foreign soldiers in his unit, but he had seen a 400-man Egyptian unit, settled in Khuninshahr. [sentence as received]

Another Iraqi captured in the recent operation, a sergeant major called Jassam Ahmad, also interviewed by IRNA, expressed his satisfaction for being captured by the Islamic forces. He also said that he had intended to surrender himself to the Islamic army beforehand. While he was leaving his relatives, his brother wished him to be captured by the Islamic combatants, he added.

OIL RESOURCES DISCUSSED AT CABINET SESSION

LD021734 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 2 May 82

[Excerpts] The Central News Unit reports that the Cabinet of the Islamic Republic of Iran held a session this morning.

During today's Cabinet session Petroleum Minister Mr Gharazi stressed the need to support the world oppressed, saying: The world devourers, who have been frightened by the fatal blows dealt by the Islamic revolution to the corrupt bodies of their agents in the region, are trying to show that Iran would turn off the oil taps for the world and would destroy the world industries, whereas we do not say this.

The petroleum minister added: The Islamic revolution considers itself obliged to place its resources, that is, its oil resources, at the disposal of the oppressed nations of the world. In this connection he made a few proposals.

MINISTRY OFFICIAL ON OIL, GAS EXPLORATION

LD041426 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 4 May 82

[Interview with Mr Kheramand, deputy minister of petroleum; date and place not given -- recorded]

[Excerpts] [Question] Iran's Ministry of Petroleum has announced that new excavations have led to the discovery of new gas deposits in Sarakhs in northeast Khorasan. More important, Iranian experts have started trial operations on the new deposits without any help from foreigners. Mr Kheramand, the deputy minister of petroleum, is here. I now ask him to give us some explanations about the new excavations.

[Answer] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. In connection with the excavation and production of petroleum products, the Ministry of Petroleum's (?new) policy is basically to make priority use of joint border oilfields, whether they are onshore or off. For this reason, the ministry experts are doing certain work in the Persian Gulf. This activity on oil and gasfields has also been carried out on land.

A gasfield has been discovered in Sarakhs. It is called the Kangiran field, and an (?adjacent) field has recently been added to it. As was stated previously, this field is in the exploratory stages, but the (?information) received so far is satisfactory and encouraging. (?The upper layer) of this deposit is sulphur-free gas with a capacity of about 40 million cubic feet per day. This gas could be used for industrial purposes and for gas conversion in Mashhad and its suburbs, in neighboring provinces such as Mazandaran, and especially for the Neka powerplant. For the compatriots' further information, I will say that a refinery will supply the Neka powerplant with gas and the discovery of this [word indistinct] field would give more credibility to the plan and would give the necessary guarantee for the expansion of industries -- that is, the industries could use these gas resources.

[Question] It has been said that Iran has one of the largest gas deposits in the world. Would you give us some statistics on this matter?

[Answer] It is perfectly true. Our country has the second largest gas resources in the world. We have 400 to 450 trillion cubic feet of proven gas resources. I would say that this country is in a very favorable position as far as oil resources are concerned. There are 50 to 60 billion barrels of proven oil resources in the country.

[Correspondent] Thank you.

GHARAZI ON TURKEY GAS PIPELINE PROJECT

NC031522 Paris AFP in English 1459 GMT 3 May 82

[Excerpt] Paris, 3 May (AFP) -- Iran has enough reserves of natural gas for several big export projects including the building of gas pipeline through Turkey to Europe, according to Iranian Oil Minister Mohammad Gharazi.

In an interview published in the latest issue of the specialist magazine ARAB OIL AND GAS, Mr Gharazi said the proposed pipeline had been specifically mentioned in a recent oil and gas accord signed by Iran and Turkey.

He added in the interview that Iran had not agreed to its oil production limit of 1.2 million barrels a day set at the special meeting of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) in Vienna in March.

Mr Gharazi said all countries were potential oil clients of Tehran except for the United States, South Africa, the Philippines and Israel. He added that eastern bloc countries had boosted their trade with Iran since the Iranian revolution.

LIBYAN TEAM ARRIVES TO SELECT OIL EXPERTS

LD031158 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 3 May 82

[Text] The Central News Unit reports that a five-man Libyan delegation has arrived in Tehran to choose the Iranian oil experts who have volunteered to be sent to Libya.

Members of the Libyan delegation will negotiate in Tehran with 180 Iranian oil industry experts and specialists who have declared their readiness to help the Libyan oil industry in defiance of U.S. conspiracies and of the American oil companies. Those who are needed in Libya will be chosen.

The report states that Iran has already sent a team of senior oil industry experts to Libya in order to identify Libya's needs for oil specialists and experts. They have carried out studies and held talks with Libyan officials to prepare for the dispatch of the required Iranian specialists and experts to Libya.

Referring to Iran's long record in the oil industry, the Iranian Oil Ministry officials announced that the Islamic Republic of Iran is able to help Libya and any Muslim and friendly oil-producing country requiring Iranian experts.

NEW MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES ESTABLISHED

LD032310 Tehran IRNA in English 1555 GMT 3 May 82

[Text] Esfahan, 3 May (IRNA) -- By the establishment of the Ministry of Heavy Industries, these industries would no longer be part of the Ministry of Mines and Industries, said the minister of labour and social affairs, Ahmad Tavakkoli, here. He further added that the law for the formation of the new ministry has been approved by the Majlis and the Council of Guardians. Tavakkoli, who is also the government spokesman, hoped that the creation of the ministry would provide opportunities for a better use of human resources. If necessary, assistance would be sought from those countries which were in harmony with the general policies of the Islamic Republic of Iran, which assistance would not result in any political side-effects, he said.

Tavakkoli, who was interviewed by IRNA today, praised efforts of the committed Iranian workers, technicians, engineers who all have been striving towards increasing the production level in the factories and decreasing ties of dependence on foreign countries. For instance, as a result of efforts of the Iranian Muslim workers, he said, the parts for the Esfahan cement factory which used to be repaired by West German workers were now being repaired by the Iranian staff of the factory.

IRNA CITES SOVIET OFFICER ON LOSSES IN DRA

LD291754 Tehran IRNA in English 1724 GMT 29 Apr 82

[Text] Quetta, Pakistan, 29 Apr (IRNA) -- Over 25 Soviet MiG's and 13 helicopters have been smashed in 3 attacks launched by Afghan mujahidin on the Baghram airbase, northern Kabul. Stating this, Captain Aleksandr Petrovich, the commander of one of the tank units of the Soviet Army in Afghanistan captured by the Muslim mujahidin, added that he was commanding 25 tanks at the time of the attack and 80 of his soldiers were killed by the mujahidin.

He stressed that there currently exists some chaos in the Soviet Army stationed in Afghanistan, attributing it to the lack of incentive on the part of Soviet troops to go to Afghanistan.